

[illegible]

5 This invention relates to the use of a nucleoside analogue active against hepatitis B virus (HBV), or another class of antiviral active against HBV, such as γ interferon or a nucleoside analogue and an HBV vaccine in the treatment of hepatitis B virus infections.

10 Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, for which there is currently no effective cure, constitutes a global public health problem of enormous dimensions. Chronic carriers of HBV, estimated to number more than 300 million world-wide, are at risk for development of chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis and primary hepatocellular carcinoma.

15 EP-A-388049 (Beecham Group p.l.c.) discloses the use of penciclovir/famciclovir in the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. All references herein to penciclovir/famciclovir include pharmaceutically acceptable salts, such as the hydrochloride, and solvents, such as hydrates.

20 EP-A-494119 (LAF Biochem. International Inc.) discloses the use of 1,3-oxathiolane nucleoside analogues, including lamivudine, in treatment of Hepatitis B.

25 The present invention provides a pharmaceutical pack comprising as active ingredients (1) an antiviral agent active against hepatitis B virus and (2) a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection, the active ingredients being for simultaneous or sequential use.

30 By pharmaceutical pack is meant a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the active ingredients. The pack may for example comprise metal or plastic foil, such as a blister pack. The pack or dispenser device may be accompanied by instructions for administration. Where the antiviral agent and the HBV vaccine are intended for administration as two separate compositions these may be presented in the form of, for example, a twin pack.

5 The invention may be used for either the treatment or prophylaxis of hepatitis B infections. The invention is most particularly of value for treatment, for example, of chronic hepatitis B infections.

10 In one aspect, the antiviral agent as used in the pharmaceutical pack is a nucleoside agent. In a further aspect the antiviral agent is a nucleoside agent. Suitable agents for use in the invention include penciclovir, famciclovir, lamivudine, ganciclovir, lodicavir, adefovir, ribavirin, BMS200, 475, vidarabine or ARA-A-MP. Preferred nucleoside analogues include penciclovir, famciclovir and lamivudine.

15 A further potential antiviral agent is an interferon. Alpha - interferon is especially preferred.

Information with respect to structure and activity of nucleoside analogues may be obtained from well known pharmaceutical industry references, such as

20 "Pharmaprojects", PJB publications Limited, Richmond, Surrey, U.K. or from R & D Focus, issued by DMS World publications, 364 Euston Road, London NW1 3BL.

25 References to an anti-hepatitis B virus nucleoside analogue, including the specific compounds mentioned hereinbefore and salts thereof, include solvates such as hydrates.

30 Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts are as described in the aforementioned Patent reference in the name of Beecham Group p.l.c. and references quoted therein, the subject matter of which are incorporated herein by reference.

35 [It will be appreciated that the anti-hepatitis B virus nucleoside or nucleoside analogue and HBV vaccine of this invention may be administered in combination with other pharmacologically active agents, in particular, other antivirals.

In this invention the vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection includes all vaccines containing HBV antigens (such as surface antigen, core and polymerase) and therapeutic vaccines.

5 In one aspect of the invention the hepatitis B virus antigen is the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). The preparation of Hepatitis B surface antigen is well documented. See for example, Hurford et al. in *Develop. Biol. Standard* 54, page 125 (1983), Gregg et al. in *Biotechnology*, 5, page 479 (1987), EP-A-0 226 846, EP-A-0 299 108 and references therein.

10

As used herein the expression 'Hepatitis B surface antigen' or 'HBsAg' includes any HBsAg antigen or immunogenic derivative thereof, particularly fragments thereof, displaying the antigenicity of HBV surface antigen. It will be understood that in addition to the 226 amino acid sequence of the HBsAg S antigen (see Tiollais et al. Nature, 317, 489 (1985) and references therein) HBsAg as herein described may, if desired, contain all or part of a pre-S sequence as described in the above references and in EP-A-0 278 940. HBsAg as herein described can also refer to variants, for example the 'escape mutant' described in WO 91/14703. In a further aspect the HBsAg may comprise a protein described as L* in European Patent Application Number 0 414 374, that is to say a protein, the amino acid sequence of which consists of parts of the amino acid sequence of the hepatitis B virus large (L) protein (ad or ay subtype), characterised in that the amino acid sequence of the protein consists of either:

- (a) residues 12 - 52, followed by residues 133 - 145, followed by residues 175 - 400 of the said L protein; or
 - (b) residue 12, followed by residues 14 - 52, followed by residues 133 - 145, followed by residues 175 - 400 of the said L protein.
- HBsAg may also refer to polypeptides described in EP 0 198 474 or EP 0 304 578.

30 Normally the HBsAg will be in particle form. It may comprise S protein alone or may be as composite particles, for example (S, L*) wherein L* is as defined above and S denotes the S-protein of hepatitis B surface antigen.

A preferred hepatitis B antigen is this composite particle, defined as S.L*.

5 A further preferred hepatitis B antigen is the 226 amino acid sequence of the HBV surface antigen, in particle form.

Such a vaccine may advantageously include a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient such as a suitable adjuvant. Suitable adjuvants include an aluminium salt such as aluminium hydroxide gel (alum) or aluminium phosphate (as described in WO93/24148), but may also be a salt of calcium, iron or zinc, or may be an insoluble suspension of acylated tyrosine, or acylated sugars, cationically or anionically derivatised polysaccharides, or polyphosphazenes.

Advantageously, the hepatitis B virus may be formulated with strong adjuvant systems. Thus in the formulation of the invention, it is preferred that the adjuvant composition induces an immune response comprising TH1 aspects. Suitable adjuvant systems include, for example a combination of monophosphoryl lipid A, preferably 3-de-O-acylated monophosphoryl lipid A (3D-MPL) together with an aluminium salt. A vaccine comprising hepatitis B surface antigen in conjunction with 3D-MPL was described in European Patent Application 0 633 784.

An enhanced system involves the combination of monophosphoryl lipid A and a saponin derivative particularly the combination of QS21 and 3D-MPL as disclosed in WO 94/00153, or a less reactogenic composition where the QS21 is quenched with cholesterol as disclosed in WO 96/33739.

Other known adjuvants which may be included are CpG containing oligonucleotides (see University of Iowa; WO9602555).

30 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention there is provided a vaccine comprising an HBV antigen, adjuvanted with a monophosphoryl lipid A or derivative thereof.

5

Preferably the vaccine additionally comprises a saponin, more preferably QS21.

5 Preferably the formulation additionally comprises an oil in water emulsion and tocopherol.

A particularly potent adjuvant formulation involving QS21, 3D-MPL & tocopherol in an oil in water emulsion is described in WO 93/17210.

10 The present invention also provides a method of treatment and/or prophylaxis of hepatitis B virus infections, which comprises administering to a human or animal subject, suffering from or susceptible to Hepatitis B virus infection, either either simultaneously or sequentially in any order, a safe and effective amount of 1) an antiviral agent active against hepatitis B virus and 2) a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection.

20 The antiviral such as penciclovir/famciclovir and the HBV vaccine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, may be co-administered in the form of two separate pharmaceutical compositions for simultaneous or sequential use. Normally the active ingredients will be administered separately according to the normal dosage and administration regimen for the ingredients given alone.

Commencement of administration may be either with the vaccine or the antiviral.

25 The present invention also provides for the use of an antiviral compound in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of patients already primed with a hepatitis B vaccine and suffering from a hepatitis B virus infection. The invention further provides for the use of a hepatitis B vaccine in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of patients already primed with an antiviral compound and suffering from a hepatitis B virus infection. The preferred antiviral is a nucleoside analogue, most preferably penciclovir/famciclovir or lamivudine.

30 Preferred hepatitis B vaccines are identified hereinabove.

6

The unit doses of the nucleoside or nucleotide analogue may be administered, for example, 1 to 4 times per day. The exact dose will depend on the route of administration and the severity of the condition being treated, and it will be appreciated that it may be necessary to make routine variations to the dosage depending on the age and weight of the patient and immunocompromised patients may require an increased dosage.

5 Vaccines are administered in multiple doses at various intervals. This is usually 6-12 doses at biweekly or monthly intervals.

10 The preferred ingredients in the pharmaceutical peak when administered simultaneously are given as separate preparations, for example, as vaccinations in each arm. It is however possible to consider simultaneous administration by mixing the ingredients before administration. The ingredients may be given enterally, such as orally or parenterally (e.g. intramuscularly or, more particularly, intravenously).

15 The antiviral agents of the invention may be formulated as a tablet prepared by conventional means. Compositions for oral use such as tablets and capsules may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g. lactose, micro-crystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricant (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium starch glycolate); or wetting agent (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). Tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art.

25 Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g. sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydroxyethyl cellulose), emulsifying agents (e.g. lecithin or acacia), non-aqueous vehicles (e.g. almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives

(e.g. methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavouring, colouring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of one or both active ingredients.

For parenteral administration the compositions may be presented in a form suitable for bolus injection or continuous infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form e.g. in syringes, ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative.

The active antiviral agent may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredients may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

For rectal administration the active antiviral agents may be formulated as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g. containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

The active antiviral agents of the invention may be prepared according to conventional techniques well known in the pharmaceutical industry. Thus, for example, the lamivudine/penciclovir/famciclovir may be admixed, if desired, with suitable excipients. Tablets may be prepared, for example, by direct compression of such a mixture. Capsules may be prepared by filling the blend along with suitable excipients into gelatin capsules, using a suitable filling machine. Controlled release forms for oral or rectal administration may be formulated in a conventional manner associated with controlled release forms.

Anti-hepatitis B virus nucleoside analogues may be identified by standard methods, such as tests involving studies in *in vitro* primary duck hepatocyte cultures infected

with the duck hepatitis B virus (DHBV).⁸ Changes in the levels of preS1 and/or vmi DNA in cultures treated with such analogs would indicate activity. Alternatively, analogues may be identified by the ability to interfere with normal acylation of synthetic peptides representing the N-terminal amino acids of DHBV or hepatitis B viruses of man, woodchucks, ground squirrels or other animals.

EXAMPLES

Hepatitis B surface antigen vaccine/Lamivudine pharmacokinetics Interaction study in dogs

5 METHODS

The following vaccine composition was employed. The HBV surface antigen was equivalent to the antigen employed in the commercially available Engerix-B vaccine™ (Smithkline Beecham Biologicals), except that it was lyophilised.

10 Lyophilized Ag:

HBsAg	100µg
Sucrose	12.6 mg
NaCl	20.3mM
15 NaH ₂ PO ₄ /Na ₂ HPO ₄	1.35 mM

Adjuvant system:

oil in water emulsion:

- Squelene	250 µl
- DL-α-tocopherol	10.7 mg
20 - polyoxyethylmonosorbitan	11.9 mg

monoleate (Tween 80)
Monophosphoryl lipid A

4.8 mg
100 µg
100 µg

25 QS21

100 µg

Water for injection

q.s. ad 0.5 ml

Na₂HPO₄

575 µg

KH₂PO₄

100 µg

KCl

100 µg

30 NaCl

4mg

pH

6.8 +/- 0.2

Lamivudine (Zelrix™, Glaxo Wellcome) was administered daily by oral capsule to three male and three female dogs at a dose level of 100 mg/dog/day for 6 weeks. On Days 14, 28 and 42 the HBs/adjvant vaccine as described above was administered by intramuscular injection immediately before administration of Lamivudine. Blood samples were taken at pre-dose, 0.5, 0.75, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 24 hours after dosing of Lamivudine on Days 7, 14, 28 and 42. The separated plasma was frozen at -20°C prior to despatch to Pharma Bio-Research for analysis of plasma concentrations of Lamivudine.

10 Sera were collected on days 0, 29 and 43 for anti-HBs antibody evaluation.

RESULTS

Lamivudine pharmacokinetics

15 Blood samples were taken on Days 7, 14, 28 and 42 of a 6-week toxicity study in order to assess the systemic exposure of male and female dogs to Lamivudine following daily oral administration of Lamivudine at a dose level of 100 mg/dog/day and intramuscular administration of HBs vaccine on Days 14, 28 and 42 immediately before administration of Lamivudine. Plasma concentrations of Lamivudine in samples taken up to 24 hours post-dose were measured by Pharma Bio-Research.

25 The maximum mean plasma concentrations of Lamivudine occurred at 2 hours post-dose on all the sampling days except for females on Day 7 where the maximum mean plasma Lamivudine concentration occurred at 1 hour post-dose. On Day 28, the maximum mean plasma concentrations of Lamivudine were lower than those values on Day 7, 14 and 42. After the maximum, the mean plasma concentrations of Lamivudine declined in an apparently biexponential manner.

30 Mean maximum plasma concentrations (C_{max}) of Lamivudine and the areas under the plasma Lamivudine concentration-time curves estimated up to 24

hours post-dose (AUC_{0-42}) on Days 7, 14, 28 and 42 are summarised below with standard deviations in parentheses:

C_{max} (ng/ml)

Day 7	Day 14		Day 28		Day 42	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
3045	4290	3176	3555	2053	3277	3287
(1516)	(3335)	(871)	(1901)	(515)	(1255)	(1256)

AUC_{0-42} (ng.h/ml)

Day 7	Day 14		Day 28		Day 42	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
12541	11514	12858	11629	8883	12585	11049
(2211)	(4324)	(3231)	(5957)	(2694)	(1182)	(4334)

The times at which the maximum plasma concentrations occurred (T_{max}) in individual dogs were generally 2 hours, and in the range 0.75 to 4 hours and appeared to be independent of administration of the HBs vaccine.

Plasma concentrations of Lamivudine were quantifiable in male animal numbers 71 and 73 and in female animal number 70 at all time points on Days 7, 14, 28 and 42, therefore, these animals were continuously exposed to quantifiable concentrations of Lamivudine during a dosing interval.

The rate (C_{max}) of systemic exposure of female dogs to Lamivudine was slightly higher than that in male dogs. The extent (AUC_{0-42}) of systemic exposure of female dogs to Lamivudine was generally slightly lower than that in male dogs. However, there was no statistically significant evidence for any sex-related differences in systemic exposure ($p \geq 0.57$).

On Days 14, 28 and 42 the rate (C_{max}) and extent (AUC_{0-42}) of systemic exposure of dogs to Lamivudine were generally similar to those values on Day 7, however, the C_{max} values in female dogs on Days 14, 28 and 42 appeared to be lower than those values on Day 7. Overall, there was no statistically significant evidence for any time (day of sampling) related differences in the rate and extent of systemic exposure ($p \geq 0.08$). The mean values of accumulation ratios, based on AUC_{0-42} values are summarised below:

	Accumulation ratio	
	Males	Females
Day 14/Day 7	1.0	1.2
Day 28/Day 7	0.9	0.8
Day 42/Day 7	1.0	1.0

The mean accumulation ratios were generally close to or less than one indicating that little or no accumulation of Lamivudine occurred following administration of HBs vaccine.

The terminal rate constants, and corresponding terminal half-lives, of Lamivudine on Days 7, 14, 28 and 42 are presented in Tables 5 - 8. The terminal rate constant, where it could be calculated ranged from 0.3239 to 0.1364 hours⁻¹ corresponding to a terminal half-life of Lamivudine of 2.1 to 5.1 hours.

Serology

Methodology

Quantitation of anti-HBs antibody was performed by ELISA using HBs (Hep 286) as coating antigen. Antigen and antibody solutions were used at 100 μ l per well. Antigen was diluted at a final concentration of 1 μ g/ml in PBS and was adsorbed overnight at 4°C to the wells of 96 wells microtiter plates (Maxisorb Immuno-plate, Nunc, Denmark). The plates were then incubated for 1hr 30 min at 37°C with PBS

1.3

containing 5% non fat powder milk and 0.1% Tween 20. Two-fold dilutions of sera (starting at 1/50 or 1/200 dilution) in PBS containing 0.5% Citrate milk and 0.1% Tween 20 were added to the HBs-coated plates and incubated for 1 hr at 37°C. The plates were washed four times with PBS 0.1% Tween 20. HRP-conjugated anti-dog IgG (Rockland, USA) diluted 1/40000 in 0.5% non fat powder milk and 0.1% Tween 20 buffer was added to each well and incubated for 1 hr at RT. After a washing step, plates were incubated for 10 min at RT with a solution of Tetramethyl benzidine (TMB) (Biomol, USA) 2-fold diluted in Citrate buffer (0.1M pH=5.8). The reaction was stopped with H₂SO₄ 0.5N and plates were read at 450/630 nm. ELISA titers were expressed as midpoint titers.

Results

The anti-HBs serologic response was measured by ELISA at day 0, 29 and 43.

Midpoint titers are presented in the following table :

Midpoint of anti-HBs antibody titers

Dog #	Day 0	Day 29	Day 43
69	25	679	7258
71	25	389	3780
73	25	705	6496
70	25	63	1027
72	25	176	3821
74	25	582	11482
Average	25	383	5371

20

The midpoint average titers at the different timepoint are the respectively 25 on Day 0 (arbitrary 1/2 of first dilution), 383 on day 29 and 5371 on day 43. This clearly indicate the induction of an immune response.

1.4

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the rate and extent of systemic exposure of dogs to Lamivudine following repeated oral administration of Lamivudine at a dose level of 100 mg/dog/day appeared to be independent of the administration of HBs vaccine on Days 14, 28 and 42 of the 6-week pharmacokinetic interaction study. There was no evidence of a difference in the rate and extent of systemic exposure to Lamivudine between male and female dogs.

Administration of the pharmaceutical appeared to be immunogenic and induced high circulating levels of anti-HBs antibodies, validating the use of the Beagle dog as an animal species for this PK interaction study.

15

CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical pack comprising as active ingredients (1) an antiviral agent
active against hepatitis B virus and (2) a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or
treatment of hepatitis B infection, the active ingredients being for simultaneous or
sequential use.
2. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 1 for use in the treatment of hepatitis
B infections.
3. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 1 for use in the prevention of hepatitis
B infections.
4. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the
antiviral agent is a nucleoside analogue.
5. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 4 wherein the antiviral agent is
selected from the group comprising: penciclovir, fosciclovir or lamivudine.
6. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 3 wherein the antiviral
agent is a nucleotide analogue.
7. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 4 or claim 6 wherein the antiviral
agent is selected from the group comprising: ganciclovir, loboavir, adefovir,
ribavirin, BMS200 475, vidarabine or ARA-AMP.
8. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 3 wherein the antiviral
agent is alpha - interferon.
9. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the
vaccine active against hepatitis B comprises hepatitis B surface antigen.

10. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 9 wherein the vaccine active against
hepatitis B comprises the antigen SL*.
11. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 9 wherein the vaccine active against
hepatitis B comprises the 226 amino acid S antigen.
12. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the
vaccine comprises an adjuvant.
13. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 12 wherein the adjuvant is selected
from the group of adjuvants comprising: 3D-MPL, QS21, a mixture of QS21 and
cholesterol, a CpG oligonucleotide, aluminium hydroxide, aluminium phosphate,
tocopherol, and an oil in water emulsion or a combination of two or more of the
said adjuvants.
14. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 13 wherein the adjuvant comprises
3D-MPL, QS21 and an oil in water emulsion.
15. A pharmaceutical pack as claimed in claim 14 wherein the oil in water emulsion
comprises squalene, tocopherol and polyoxyethyl-tenesorbitan monooleate (Tween
80).
16. A method of treating a patient suffering from or susceptible to Hepatitis B virus
infection, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof, either
simultaneously or sequentially in any order, a safe and effective amount of 1) an
antiviral agent active against hepatitis B virus and 2) a vaccine for the prophylaxis
and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection.
17. A method as claimed in claim 13 which comprises the use of a pharmaceutical
pack according to any of claims 1 to 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61K39/29 A61K31/52 A61K38/21 A61P5/00		International Application No. PCT/EP 99/10295
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation required (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61K A61P		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Extensive data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EMBASE, MEDLINE, EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, MPI Data, PAJ, CHEN ABS Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category X	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages BONTI C ET AL: "Lantivudine treatment can restore T cell responsiveness in chronic hepatitis B 'see comments'." JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION, (1998 SEP 1) 102 (5) 968-76., XP000909082 abstract; figures 1,3,4 page 969, column 2, paragraph 6 -page 970 page 973, column 2 -/-	Relevant to claim No. 1-5, 9-19
X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		
* Special categories of cited documents: 'A' document during the prior art of the art which is not 'B' earlier document but published on or after the international 'C' document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or 'D' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'E' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'F' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'G' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'H' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'I' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'J' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'K' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'L' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'M' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'N' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'O' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'P' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'Q' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'R' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'S' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'T' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'U' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'V' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'W' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'X' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'Y' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or 'Z' document which may throw doubt on the priority claim(s) or		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 July 2000		
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.O. Box 1, 8010 Paternoster 2 4001 XE Dordrecht, NL Tel. (+31-78) 349-3000, Telex 81 811 epo nl Fax (+31-78) 349-3019		
Authorized officer GONZALEZ RADON, N		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LU	Luxembourg	SK	Slovakia
AN	Antigua and Barbuda	FR	France	LV	Latvia	SL	Slovenia
AO	Angola	GB	Great Britain	MC	Monaco	TD	Togo
AR	Argentina	GE	Georgia	MD	Moldova	TM	Turkmenistan
AS	Armenia	GR	Greece	ME	Montenegro	TR	Turkey
AT	Austria	GU	Guam	ML	Malawi	UA	Ukraine
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	HN	Honduras	MM	Myanmar	US	United States of America
BB	Barbados	HR	Croatia	NP	Nepal	UZ	Uzbekistan
BD	Bangladesh	HU	Hungary	NI	Nicaragua	VE	Venezuela
BE	Belgium	IE	Ireland	NL	Netherlands	ZA	South Africa
BF	Burkina Faso	IL	Israel	NO	Norway		
BG	Bulgaria	IN	India	PL	Poland		
BI	Burundi	IR	Iran	PT	Portugal		
BJ	Benin	IS	Iceland	RO	Romania		
BK	Bhutan	IT	Italy	RU	Russia		
BM	Bermuda	JP	Japan	SD	Sudan		
BN	Brunei Darussalam	KE	Kenya	SE	Sweden		
BO	Bolivia	KG	Kyrgyzstan	SG	Singapore		
BR	Brazil	KH	Kampuchea				
BS	Bahamas	KR	Republic of Korea				
BT	Bhutan	KU	Kuwait				
BV	Bouvet Island	KZ	Kazakhstan				
BW	Botswana	LA	Laos				
BY	Belarus	LB	Lebanon				
BZ	Belize	LC	Liechtenstein				
		LR	Liberia				

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Pub. and Application No.
Category 1		PCT/EP 99/10295
Category 1	Class of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BRENGER M ET AL: "Hepatitis B and C viruses: Molecular identification and targeted antiviral therapies" PROCEEDINGS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS, vol. 110, no. 2, March 1998 (1998-03), pages 98-112, XP000909240 abstract page 102, column 2	1-5,9-19
X,P	PIANCO S ET AL: "Chronic hepatitis B: New therapies on the horizon?" LANCET (13 NOV 1999) 354(9191) (1662-1663) XP000909260 paragraph 00051; table 1	1-7,9-19
Y	GRUB P J: "Hepatitis B: Virus, pathogenesis and treatment" VACCINE, 66, BUTTERWORTH SCIENTIFIC, GUILDFORD, vol. 16, no. 1001 November 1998 (1998-11), pages S11-S16, ISSN: 0264-410X page S16, column 2	1-7,9-19
P,X	VALDEZ H ET AL: "Response to immunization with recall and neonatogens after prolonged administration of an HIV-1 protease inhibitor-containing regimen. ACTS 375 team. AIDS Clinical Trials Group." AIDS, (2000 JAN 7) 14 (1) 11-21., XP000909260 see discussion abstract	1-7,9-19
P,X	RUDO JENNIFER N. (1) ET AL: "Possible role for hepatitis B vaccine after lamivudine rescue for severe acute hepatitis B." GASTROENTEROLOGY, (APRIL, 1999) VOL. 116, NO. 4 PART 2, PP. A1268, MEETING INFO.: DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK AND THE 100TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA MAY 16-19, 1999 AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL A., XP000909262	1-5,9-19

-/-

From PCT/EP 99/10295 to publication of second revised (July 1999)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

C(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Pub. and Application No.
Category 1		PCT/EP 99/10295
Category 1	Class of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 414 374 A (SMITHKLINE BIOLOG) 27 February 1991 (1991-02-27) cited in the application abstract; claims 8,16; example F9	1-7,9-19
P,Y	WO 99 45957 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM BIOLOG; STEPHENNE JEAN (BE); WETTENDORFF MARTIN) 16 September 1999 (1999-09-16) page 5 -page 7	1-7,9-19
X,P	SUK-FONG LOK A.: "Hepatitis B infection: Pathogenesis and management." JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY, SUPPLEMENT, (2000) 32/1 (89-97), XP000909278 abstract page 95	1-7,9-19
X,P	MOLLOY P J ET AL: "Combined interferon, famciclovir and gm-CSF treatment of HBV infection in an individual with perihepatitis nodosa." HEPATO-GASTROENTEROLOGY, (1999 JUL-AUG) 46 (28) 2528-31., XP000909277 abstract	1-7,9-19

From PCT/EP 99/10295 to publication of second revised (July 1999)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT	
<p>Box 1 Observations whose claims are found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)</p> <p>This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 170(a) for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Claims Nov.: Because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claims Nov.: 1-5, 7, 9-19 Because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically: see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Claims Nov.: Because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(c).</p> <p>Box 2 Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)</p> <p>This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International Application, as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">see additional sheet</p> <p>As a result of the prior review under R. 48.2(e) PCT, no additional fees are to be refunded.</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As any some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nov.: 1-3 (partially) 4-6 (complete) 7 (partially) 9-19 (partially)</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by Claims Nos.:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In: International Application No. PCT/EP 99/10295</p> <p>Remark on Prior Art</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. <input type="checkbox"/> No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.</p>

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (1)) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/EP 99 10295

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box 1.2

Claims Nos.: 1-5, 7, 9-19

Present claims 1-5, 7, 9-19 relate to a product defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely "antiviral agent" and "vaccine for the prophylaxis and treatment of hepatitis B infection". The claims cover all products having these characteristics or properties, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such products. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

Moreover claim 4 relates to an extremely large number of possible compounds defined as "nucleoside analogues". Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the compounds claimed.

Consequently, the search for the first invention has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the products used in the examples and specifically mentioned in claims 5, 9-11 with due regard to the general idea underlying the present application.

Claims partially searched: 5, 7 9-11, 13-15 as far as relating to the compounds specified in claim 5, the nucleoside analogues specified in claim 7 the vaccine specified in claims 9-11, and the adjuvants specified in claims 13, 14, 15.

Claims not searched: 1-4, 12, 16-19

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(g) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an international Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/EP 99 10295

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 4,5 complete, 1-3,7,9-19 partially
Pharmaceutical composition comprising nucleoside analogue and a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection. Methods of treating hepatitis B virus infection using said combination therapy.
2. Claims: 6 complete, 1-3,7,9-19 partially
Pharmaceutical composition comprising nucleoside analogue and a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection. Methods of treating hepatitis B virus infection using said combination therapy.
3. Claims: 8 complete, 1-3,7,9-19 partially
Pharmaceutical composition comprising alpha-interferon and a vaccine for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of hepatitis B infection. Methods of treating hepatitis B virus infection using said combination therapy.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

 Int. Appl. No.
PCT/EP 99/10295

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0414374 A	27-02-1991	AT 159031 T	15-10-1997
		AU 714652 B	06-01-2000
		AU 1896897 A	19-06-1997
		AU 5972890 A	31-01-1991
		AU 7752894 A	16-02-1995
		CA 2021762 A	26-01-1991
		CN 1052331 A	19-06-1991
		DE 69031556 D	13-11-1997
		DE 69031556 T	14-05-1998
		DK 414374 T	08-03-1998
		ES 2109921 T	01-02-1998
		FR 3025819 T	31-03-1998
		HK 1003032 A	30-09-1998
		HU 57262 A	28-11-1991
		JP 3080083 A	04-04-1991
		KR 181949 B	01-04-1999
		KR 304268 B	23-11-1998
		NZ 234615 A	23-12-1992
		PL 188397 B	23-03-1996
		PT 94797 A, B	29-03-1991
		SG 48175 A	17-04-1998
		ZA 9005763 A	28-08-1991
		PL 168408 B	28-02-1996
		PL 168787 B	30-04-1996
NO 9945957 A	16-09-1999	AU 3328399 A	27-09-1999

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)